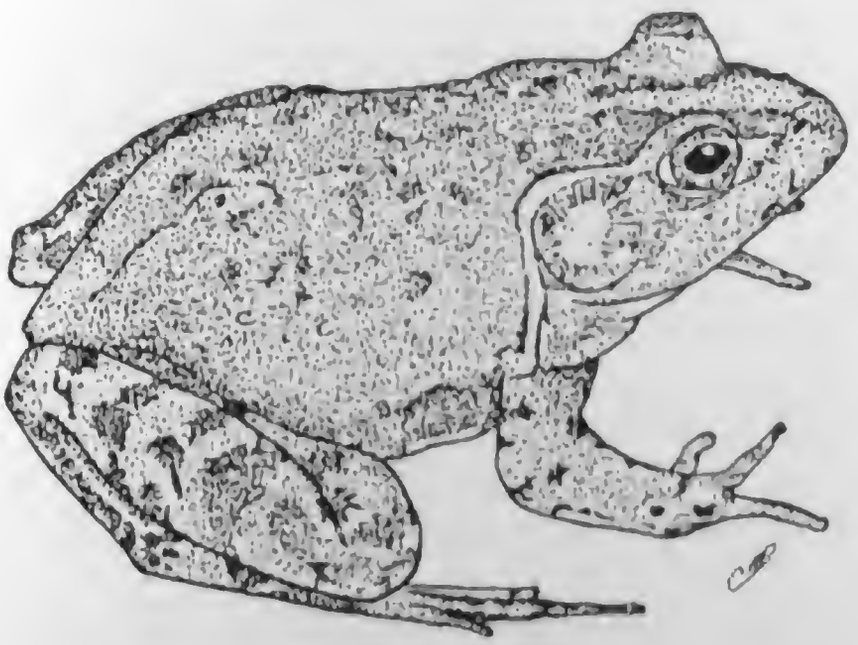
CATESBEIANA



BULLETIN OF
THE VIRGINIA HERPETOLOGICAL SOCIETY
ISSN 0892-0761
VOLUME 8 1988 NUMBER 2

BULLETIN INFORMATION

The Bulletin of the Virginia Herpetological Society is issued twice a year by the Virginia Herpetological Society. Membership is open to all individuals interested in the study of amphibians and reptiles, and includes a subscription to *Catesbeiana* and admission to all meetings. Dues are $5.00 per year and include *Catesbeiana* Nos. 1 and 2 for that year. Dues are payable to: Laura Crews, Secretary-Treasurer, Route 1, Box 411, Hayes, VA 23072. See page 41 for additional membership information. Herpetological societies desiring exchange of publications should send copies of their society publications to Charles Neal, Dept. of Biology, Radford University, Radford, VA 24142.

EDITORIAL POLICY

The principle function of *Catesbeiana* is to publish observations and original research about Virginia Herpetology. Rarely will articles be reprinted in *Catesbeiana* after they have been published elsewhere. All correspondence relative to suitability of manuscripts or other editorial considerations should be directed to Charles Neal or Eugene Gourley, Coeditors, Department of Biology, Radford University, Radford, VA 24142.

---

*(Continued on inside back cover.)

C A T E S B E I A N A

Bulletin of the Virginia Herpetological Society

VOLUME 8 FALL 1988 NO. 2

Fall 1988 Meeting Notice 19

VHS Celebrates Its Thirtieth Anniversary
by Franklin J. Tobey 21

A Southwestern Range Extension in Bedford County for the Peaks of Otter Salamander
by Robert A. S. Wright 27

Proposed List of Amphibians and Reptiles of Special Concern in Virginia
by Joseph C. Mitchell 29

Field Notes 31

News and Notes 35

VaHS 1988 Directory of Members 36

VaHS Membership Information 41

MEETING NOTICE

The fall meeting of the VaHS will be held October 5, 1988, at Radford University, Radford, Virginia. Charles Neal and Richard Hoffman will be hosting the meeting. See page 40 for details.

Cover: *Rana catesbeiana* by Christopher A. Pague

1958 VHS CELEBRATES ITS THIRTIETH ANNIVERSARY 1988

by

Franklin J. Tobey
Loudoun Heights, Va.

This short history of VHS marks the society's 30th birthday. The job we started is not yet complete.

A survey of the reptile life on the Lower Peninsula (between the York and the James Rivers) led to the idea of a state herpetological society. The desire for such a group brought together amateur herpetologists from Newport News and Yorktown to Arlington and Fairfax.

In September 1949, O. King Goodwin, seeking an Explorer Scout program, took five scouts to Yorktown to Virginia Fisheries Lab to hear a slide talk by John Thornton Wood, an assistant biologist. Wood later instructed the group in identification, collection, and preservation of specimens. Wood and Goodwin encouraged the group to take field notes and to make a checklist of specimens found in York, James City, Elizabeth City (now Hampton), and Warwick (now part of Newport News) Counties.

In 1950, and again in 1951, the Goodwin group displayed their material at a scouting exposition. The second year they used a printed list of the region's amphibians and reptiles as a giveaway at the exhibit. The event inspired a news item in a scouters' magazine *Explorers' Quarterly* which was noted by another explorer adviser in Fairfax County. Frank Tobey read the item and wrote to Goodwin in Warwick. Later, they met in Washington, D.C. Conversations, incoming mail, and visits to biology departments of nearby high schools and colleges led to other interested people and the accretion of information about the reptiles and amphibians of Virginia.

Information available to the general public on both reptiles and amphibians in Virginia was lean, often inaccurate, or incomplete. Young married people, working at daily jobs in town could not afford the luxury of browsing in college libraries. (Conant's--*A Field Guide to the Reptiles and Amphibians* . . . was to be out in 1957 but did not appear in print until Fall 1958.) Lawrence Gibson, a neighbor, brought Tobey's attention to the *Virginia Wildlife* magazine.

Catesbeiana 8(2):21-26, 1988.

William L. Witt, student in Arlington, combed the U.S. National Museum's library looking for scientific papers on Virginia amphibians and reptiles.

In Washington, D.C., at his magazine office from 1950 to 1957, F. J. Tobey scanned Virginia newspapers as a business routine, but also watched for the names and locations of herpetology enthusiasts. The *Richmond Times-Dispatch* proved a rich source of ideas and names. A trio wrote to its editor in response to a proposed bounty on the poisonous snakes (23 Jan. 1950). John T. Wood, Williamsburg, and Frederic R. Scott, Richmond, protested the bounty (26 Jan. 1950). Another person threw fuel to the fire by suggesting that "coral snakes" were to be found in Virginia. [This threatened the scarlet snakes and coastal plain milk snakes and other harmless coral snake mimics. There are no Virginia coral snakes (*Elaps fulvius*) in scientific or other natural history collections, to date.] "Snakes Bite Two Youths in Bryan Park" was a *Times-Dispatch* story on 6 September 1955. It was followed by an editorial on 8 September 1955 headed "Nobody Loves a Snake!" By 10 September a reply said: "Snakes Do Have Friends, After All." The reply, by F. J. Tobey, then living in Fairfax, noted that harmless snakes perform a valuable service by consuming rodents and insects, etc.

A two-pronged search for information and names and addresses of any interested persons started. Correspondence with federal, state, and local agencies which might, conceivably, have some information on the Virginian herpetofauna, was opened. Doris M. Cochran, then curator of the division of reptiles and amphibians at the U.S. National Museum was a prime source of the names of interested people; i.e., prospective members. Her friendship had already been enlisted in early 1950. Lunchtimes at the office were sometimes spent either at the USNM or at the National Zoological Park, Washington, D.C., where the Reptile House was the focus of attention. M. (Jack) dePrato, Senior Keeper and his colleague, Lester Ratliff, a native of Clintwood, in Dickenson County, Va., provided new perspectives.

Several articles were about to appear in *Virginia Wildlife* magazine: E. A. Taylor's "Virginia Poisonous Snakes" (May 1952), and "Snakes and Snake Venoms" (July 1956); W. L. Burger's "The Storm Frogs of Eastern Virginia" (August 1957); and F. J. Tobey's "Harmless--but Often Helpful--Snakes" (April 1957). This feature article said near the end:

> "Interest in the science of herpetology is spreading, here as elsewhere, and it is hoped that we may soon have a society through which all of the scattered information may be routed for compilation. Professionals may find this an excellent medium for

dissemination of information to a growing number of amateur enthusiasts."

In 1957 the "penny postal" was up to 2 cents (15 cents now). About 28 addresses had been assembled by Fall 1957. A letter was sent to each addressee inviting them to return the enclosed postcard with their correct name and address if they favored the idea of starting a state herpetological society. Twenty-four postcards were returned. Also, letters came in from people who were in favor of the organization. *Virginia Wildlife* announced the formation of VHS in its June 1958 edition. Phoebe H. Knipling, science supervisor of Arlington County secondary schools, gave the embryo society space for an exhibit at the Northern Virginia Science Fair held at Fort Myer, Va., in April 1958.

Twenty-eight VHS members carried the new group through its first few months. Fifty members and friends attended the first statewide meeting at Camp Shawondasee, near Chesterfield, Va., on 18 October 1958. They voted for the first slate of VHS officers.

The biological literature was getting out of hand about 30 years ago. *Medical Tribune*, a national paper for doctors of medicine, said: "Scientific journals were proliferating at a rate that made rabbit replication look like a trend toward extinction." Aware of this, F. J. Tobey discussed the problem with Charles W. Shilling, M.D., Biological Communications Project director at George Washington University. BCP tried to stem the flood of journals. As a result of our conference, it was decided that the VHS would not go the "scientific journal" route. VHS Bulletin No. 1 appeared in March 1958, in the mimeographed newsletter form familiar to VHS members up to 1979. There was little danger of a flood of citations to the VHS-B in the "literature." VHS-B was then essentially an organizational and promotional device with interlaced herpetological items. It was not until VHS-B #45 that anyone appeared to take the bulletin seriously. We urged that any reference to VHS-B in member-generated papers for publication be simply a citation as "personal communication."

After James A. Peters' note on subspecies appeared in VHS Bulletin (Peters was Doris Cochran's successor as curator at USNM), a number of university-level zoologists began to show interest. Regretfully, a few kept their initial impression (1958-59) of VHS as a kind of specialized scout troop. Holding VHS meetings on university campuses has had a beneficial effect in altering that image.

From 1958 to 1979, precut stencils were sent to the George Mason Occupational Training Center, Arlington, to be run off as a training exercise for handicapped persons. The treasurer of VHS paid the bill which was solely for paper costs. Postage, in the early years, with precancelled

FOUNDING MEMBERS OF THE VIRGINIA HERPETOLOGICAL SOCIETY

NAME	1958	1988
ABELL, Arthur J. (Student)	Arlington, VA	Boston, MA (NPS)
*APPLEGATE, S. P. (Staff)	Walker Museum, Univ. of Chicago, IL	
*BAKER, Louis C. (BIOL)	Arlington, VA	Arlington, VA
BROADUS, J. P. & Family	Nokesville, VA	(Unknown)
*BROWN, R. Clyde (NAT)	Fieldale, VA	Fieldale, VA
*BURGER, W. Leslie (BIOL)	Williamsburg, VA	(Deceased)
*CHASE, Joseph (Radio)	Franklin, VA	(Unknown)
*COOPER, Wm. E., Jr. (BIOL)	Richmond, VA	(Unknown)
*CRAIG, Costello M. & Family	Bedford, VA	Bedford, VA
CRAIG, Bryan	Bedford, VA	Hardy, VA
CRAIG, Gerald	Bedford, VA	Bedford, VA
CRAIG, Mark	Bedford, VA	Roanoke, VA
*CREUTZ, Alan (Student)	McLean, VA	Illinois
*DeRAGEOT, Roger H. (Co-F)	Norfolk, VA	Washington, DC
DesCHAMPS, A. J. (Ranger)	Chesterfield, VA	(Unknown)
DOWD, W. T., Jr. (Adult)	Portsmouth, VA	(Unknown)
DUNKLE, David H. (Staff)	Smithsonian Institution	(Unknown)
FERGUSON, Gary W. (Student)	Hampton, VA	(Unknown)
*FLYNN, Paul (Adult)	Oakton, VA	North Carolina
*GAGNON, Robert J. (Adult)	Ellerson, VA	(Deceased)
GAGNON, William (Student)	Ellerson, VA	(Unknown)
GILTZ, Maurice L. (Faculty)	Ohio State Univ.	(Unknown)
*GOODWIN, O. K. (Co-F)	Warwick, VA	
*GREEN, N. Bayard (Faculty)	Huntington, WV	Huntington, WV
*GRIMMER, J. Lear (Assoc. Dir.)	National Zool. Park	(Unknown)
HALL, Harlan (Student)	McLean, VA	(Unknown)
*HALLINGER, Don (Student)	Blacksburg, VA	Geologist, SW-USA
*HANSON, Charles L. (BIOL)	Port Clinton, OH	Arizona
*HOBBS, Horton H. (Faculty)	Charlottesville, VA	Falls Church, VA
*HOFFMAN, Richard L. (Faculty)	Clifton Forge, VA	Radford, VA
*HOSTETTER, D. Ralph (Faculty)	Harrisonburg, VA	(Unknown)
*HUGHES, Roscoe D., M.D. (Fac.)	Medical Coll. of Va.	(Deceased)
*JOPSON, Harry G. M. (Faculty)	Bridgewater, VA	Bridgewater, VA
KEELER, William J. & Family	Falls Church, VA	(Unknown)
*KNIPLING, Phoebe H. (Sci. Supvr.)	Arlington, VA	Arlington, VA
*MASSMAN, William H. (Staff)	Va. Fisheries Lab.	U.S. D/I, D.C.
MARTIN, W. H., III (Student)	Leesburg, VA	Harpers Ferry, WV
MARTIN, James R. (Adult)	Norfolk, VA	Luray, VA (?)
*McLAUGHLIN, Col. John H.	Christiansburg, VA	OGIF Richmond, VA
MILLSBACK, John A.	Arlington, VA	Falls Church, VA
MILLSBACK, Paul F.	Arlington, VA	(Unknown)
*MYERS, M. & Family	Brookneal, VA	(Unknown)
*NIXON, B. J. (Photog.)	Hampton, VA	(Unknown)
O'KENNON, Capt. R. J., Jr.	Hopewell, VA	U.S.M.C (Pilot)
REED, Clyde F. (Adult)	Baltimore, MD	Baltimore, MD
RICHMOND, Neil D. (Staff)	Carnegie Mus./Nat. Hist.	Pittsburgh, PA
RINTELEN, Joseph C. (Faculty)	El Paso, TX	New Mexico
ROSS, Robert D. (Faculty)	Blacksburg, VA	(Deceased)

NAME	1958	1988
ROTHMAN, Barry (PHS ed.)	Philadelphia, PA	(Deceased)
*SCOTT, Frederic R. (Adult)	Richmond, VA	Richmond, VA
*SHINER, Lt. J. W. (USA)	Fort Gordon, GA	(Unknown)
SLEDGE, J. B., Jr. (Adult)	Newport News, VA	(Unknown)
STEIRLY, C. C., Jr. (FOR)	Waverly, VA	Waverly, VA
TAYLOR, Ernest A. (Engr.)	Alexandria, VA	(Deceased)
*TERBORGH, John (Student)	Arlington, VA	(Unknown)
*TOBEY, F. J., Jr. (Co-F)	Oakton, VA	Loudoun Co., VA
*TUCK, Robert G., Jr. (Student)	Point-of-Rocks, MD	Florida
VASQUEZ, A. W.	Arlington, VA	(Unknown)
*WALSH, Mrs. Martha L. (Faculty)	Mclean, VA	(Unknown)
*WATSON, Robert J. (VSO)	Arlington, VA	Arlington, VA
*WITT, William L. (Co-F)	Arlington, VA	Falls Church, VA
*WOOD, John T., M.D. (Co-F)	Burkeville, VA	Victoria, BC
XANTEN, William (Staff)	National Zool. Park	(Unknown)

HONORARY MEMBERS (1959)

NAME	1958	1988
*COCHRAN, Doris M. (Curator)	U.S. National Museum	(Deceased)
CONANT, Roger (Director)	Phila. Zool. Gardens	Albuquerque, NM
WEBER, Walter A. (Staff)	National Geographic	(Unknown)

*Those marked returned vote favoring establishment of VHS.

stamps was at 3 cents. Technology finally overtook the process. The machine-copier was replacing the mimeograph machine. The offset process was the only real alternative well before the new VHS publication *Catesbeiana* began to appear.

Meetings were not the *real* VHS, as we found out over 22 years of experience. Providing a roundup of items of herpetology interest to a wide group of people was the name of the game. Meetings were rarely oversubscribed. Anywhere from 10 to 30 members showed. One National Zoo meeting during the year-end holidays netted a memorable 75 attendees! One VHS statewide meeting suffered from an October hurricane; another was held during a weekend in October 1962 coinciding with the Cuban Missile Crisis. A handful of nervous military reservists kept watch for military aircraft activity overhead.

Four out-of-state prospective members who threw partly empty beer cans about indoors after the first statewide meeting were quietly dropped from the VHS mailing list. VHS offered to pay damages to the cabin that bore the brunt of the after-hours melee; fortunately, VHS was absolved. In 1964 one malcontent appeared at a statewide meeting site confiding that he came to disrupt the proceedings. He was given two hours to clear the campus or be escorted to the gate. He left. In fairness, it must be said that the same member attended a joint VHS-MdHS zoo meeting a few years later sheepishly admitting to newfound maturity.

Bureaucracy: From the start it was a fight to keep the VHS bureaucracy to a minimum. All members were participants in VHS. What they did, as individuals or in a group, was part of the VHS program. (See purposes.) At a statewide meeting in 1964 the membership voted to be guided by a board of directors composed of faculty-level zoologists rather than continue to be enmeshed in lengthy business sessions. They voted for herpetology. There were no "internal politics"--gossip, maybe, but the name of the game was herpetology.

At meetings, individual members not particularly inspired by the VHS stated purposes tried to take the society off in other directions: One attempt would have turned VHS into a "pet-fanciers' club" with trophies for the longest snake exhibited, the healthiest lizard, etc.; the whole dog show routine!

Purposes:

1. Promote scientific study of Virginia's herpetofauna.
2. Improve the quality in recording occurrences of species of reptiles and amphibians.
3. Encourage county surveys and exchange of verified data.
4. Broaden public understanding in the interest of conservation of Virginia's amphibians and reptiles.
5. Aid accurate newspaper reporting of unusual finds.
6. Build collections of Virginia specimens for the scientific and educational use.

Once asked why we didn't name the society the Virginia Society for Study of Amphibians and Reptiles, we noted the acronym--"VASSAR" was a name already in use elsewhere.

Other aspects of the history of VHS appear in files of the VHS Bulletins (1958-1979), in the 1985 booklet *Virginia's Amphibians and Reptiles: A Distributional Survey*, and a three-ring binder of VHS historical background recently turned over to the editorial staff of *Catesbeiana*. It is my hope that, if there is sufficient interest, someone with more objective perspective will undertake a simple history using these sources.

A SOUTHWESTERN RANGE EXTENSION IN BEDFORD COUNTY FOR THE PEAKS OF OTTER SALAMANDER

by

Robert A. S. Wright
National Park Service
Peaks of Otter Ranger Station
Route 2, Box 163
Bedford, VA 24523

In July 1987, a western range extension exploration for the Peaks of Otter salamander (*Plethodon hubrichti* Thurow) was initiated at the suggestion of Dr. Joseph C. Mitchell who is studying the herpetofauna of the Commonwealth. A team of Peaks of Otter rangers, Dr. Mitchell, and the author traversed the lower southwestern slopes (elev. 2750 feet) of Flat Top Mountain, where we searched under the numerous rocks and fallen oak and hickory logs. After discarding catches of the ubiquitous slimy salamander (*Plethodon glutinosus*), Dr. Mitchell uncovered a *P. hubrichti* beneath an accumulation of loose rocks.

Throughout August, Ranger Paula Leggett and the author picked, prodded, and poked under downed logs, rocks, and old decayed hemlock stumps in the ravines, springheads, and shady hollows 3.35 air miles (5.5 kilometers) west of Flat Top Mountain. We started our project at Powell Gap (elev. 1880 feet) and worked relatively undisturbed hemlock birch slopes. There we found numerous taxa including slimy (*Plethodon glutinosus*), red-backed (*Plethodon cinereus*), ridge and valley (*Plethodon hoffmani*), northern dusky (*Desmognathus fuscus*), and northern two-lined (*Eurycea bislineata*) salamanders.

At this Powell Gap site, we mistakenly identified a collected specimen as a juvenile Peaks salamander and wrote Professor Richard Highton at the University of Maryland of our discovery. A find of the Peaks salamander so far south of Sharp Top Mountain and at such a "low" altitude was met by Professor Highton with understandable skepticism. His doubts were well founded as the specimen upon closer inspection was found to be a rather dark ridge and valley salamander with only 21 costal grooves.

After further unsuccessful efforts in the Powell Gap area and along the slopes of McFalls Creek, we moved southeast and on a northeastern exposure near the Peaks of Otter campground (elev. 2440 feet) our project met with success. There in a shady hemlock-birch association above Little

---

Catesbeiana 8(2):27-28, 1988.

Stony Creek, I collected two specimens of the Peaks of Otter salamander.

The specimens, a juvenile measuring 31 mm (S-V; tail was 22 mm) and a subadult of 46 mm (total length) have been verified by Chris Pague. The specimens have been donated to the National Museum of Natural History via the Mitchell-Pague collection. The specimen label reads:

> 40 meters southwest of intersection of Route 43 and the Peaks of Otter picnic grounds entrance on a steep hemlock-birch slope under decayed hemlock log, 29 August 1987, Robert A. S. Wright leg.

This new find extends the westernmost collection station for *Plethodon hubrichti* some 1.4 air miles (2.2 kilometers) from its known habitat on the slopes of Flat Top Mountain. Further intensive searches in similar associations in the general area may uncover other isolated and local populations. Since most of the original forests covering the slopes of the three Peaks of Otter have historically been altered by pioneer agricultural practices, fieldwork should be concentrated in the least disturbed high-elevation woods. The following herbaceous vegetation appears to be most indicative of such woods: *Angelica triquinata* (hairy angelica), *Sanicula trifoliata* (three-leaved snakeroot), *Ribes rotundifolium* (gooseberry), and *Hybanthus concolor* (green violet).

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The author acknowledges the helpful assistance from Rangers Paula Leggett, Georgia Case, and Michael Caouette in fieldwork. I am also indebted to Bambi Teague, Blue Ridge Parkway Resource Management specialist for her assistance in obtaining permission to collect live material for study and to Chief Ranger Gene Parker for his help in obtaining ample office space for the housing of live specimens. I also acknowledge the generous field and technical aid rendered by Dr. J. C. Mitchell who inspired the whole project. I also thank Professor Richard Highton for the data he offered and for his advice on some fieldwork procedures.

PROPOSED LIST OF AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES OF SPECIAL CONCERN IN VIRGINIA

by

Joseph C. Mitchell
Department of Biology
University of Richmond
Richmond, VA 23173

On April 28-29, 1989, the state of Virginia will sponsor a symposium on endangered and threatened species in the state. I am the chairman of the committee on amphibians and reptiles. The following list are those species we will be considering for the categories of (1) endangered, (2) threatened, (3) special concern, and (4) status undetermined. I need input from anyone who has information on any of these species regarding their natural history and threats to populations and habitats in Virginia. Please send all information to me by January 1, 1989.

Federal Endangered and Threatened Species

Caretta caretta	Loggerhead Sea Turtle
Chelonia mydas mydas	Atlantic Green Turtle
Ertemochelys imbricata imbricata	Atlantic Hawksbill
Lepidochelys kempi	Kemp's Ridley
Dermochelys coriacea coriacea	Leatherback

State Endangered Species (October 1, 1987)

Ambystoma tigrinum tigrinum	Tiger Salamander
Plethodon shenandoah	Shenandoah Salamander
Clemmys muhlenbergii	Bog Turtle
Deirochelys reticularia reticularia	Eastern Chicken Turtle

Proposed State Endangered Species

Crotalus horridus atricaudatus	Canebrake Rattlesnake

Proposed State Threatened Species

Ambystoma mabeei	Mabee's Salamander
Ambystoma talpoideum	Mole Salamander

Catesbeiana 8(2):29-30, 1988

Amphibians and Reptiles of Special Concern in Virginia

Bufo quercicus ..... Oak Toad
Clemmys insculpta ..... Wood Turtle
Ophisaurus ventralis ..... Eastern Glass Lizard

Proposed State Species of Special Concern

Leurognathus marmoratus ..... Shovelnose Salamander
Cryptobranchus alleganiensis alleganiensis ..... Hellbender
Desmognathus wrighti ..... Pigmy Salamander
Plethodon hubrichti ..... Peaks of Otter Salamander
Plethodon kentucki ..... Kentucky Salamander
Plethodon punctatus ..... Cow Knob Salamander
Plethodon welleri ..... Weller's Salamander
Stereochilus marginatus ..... Many-lined Salamander
Hyla gratiosa ..... Barking Treefrog
Pseudacris ocularis ..... Little Grass Frog
Pseudacris triseriata kalmi ..... New Jersey Chorus Frog
Rana virgatipes ..... Carpenter Frog
Malaclemys terrapin terrapin .... Northern Diamondback Terrapin
Lampropeltis triangulum elapsoides ..... Scarlet King Snake
Opheodrys aestivus conanti ..... Barrier Island Rough Green Snake
Virginia valeriae pulchra ..... Mountain Earth Snake

Proposed State Status Undetermined Species

Necturus maculosus maculosus .... Mudpuppy
Necturus punctatus punctatus .... Dwarf Waterdog
Plethodon dorsalis dorsalis ..... Eastern Zigzag Salamander
Siren intermedia intermedia ..... Eastern Lesser Siren
Siren lacertina ..... Greater Siren
Graptemys geographica ..... Map Turtle
Sternotherus minor peltifer ..... Stripeneck Musk Turtle
Trachemys scripta troostii ..... Cumberland Slider
Trionyx spiniferus spiniferus ... Eastern Spiny Softshell
Eumeces anthracinus anthracinus ..... Northern Coal Skink
Lampropeltis getulus niger ..... Black Kingsnake
Opheodrys vernalis vernalis ..... Eastern Smooth Green Snake
Pituophis melanoleucus melanoleucus ..... Northern Pine Snake
Regina rigida ..... Glossy Crayfish Snake
Tantilla coronata ..... Southeastern Crowned Snake

FIELD NOTES

Ophisaurus ventralis (Eastern Glass Lizard): Virginia Beach (formerly Princess Anne County), False Cape State Park. May 1987. D. Schwab.--Specimens collected on May 12 and May 23, 1987, were maintained in captivity in a 10-gallon aquarium with shelter box and a water bowl. On 23 June 1988, six eggs were found around the outside of the water bowl, and after measurement were placed in a plastic shoe box with peat moss as a substrate. After a week the apparently infertile eggs developed an odor of decomposition and were removed from the box (three were preserved). On 12 July 1988 another egg was found and placed in peat moss as before. This egg also decomposed. It is not known which lizard laid the eggs, or whether both were involved. Egg measurements (in millimeters) are as follows:

23 JUNE		12 JULY
21.6 x 13.1	21.4 x 13.1	22.3 x 13.4
20.9 x 13.0	21.3 x 13.3	
21.5 x 12.9	21.4 x 13.0	

Don Schwab
Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries
P.O. Box 847
Suffolk, VA 23434

Thamnophis sirtalis sirtalis (Eastern Garter Snake): City of Richmond, 600 m W of Va. Rt. 161 (Boulevard) Bridge on southern shore of James River. 1 June 1986. R. A. S. Wright.--A captive female garter snake from this locality gave birth to 21 young on 22 June 1986, the process taking about nine minutes. Four hours later all 21 were anesthetized with a chloroform mist to permit measurement, the results are as follows: mean total length = 174.3 $\pm$ 1.3 mm; mean snout-vent length = 137.8 $\pm$ 0.8 mm; mean tail length = 35.8 $\pm$ 1.4 mm. The total length thus agrees closely with a value of 175 mm for neonates cited by Martof et al. (1980. Amphibians and Reptiles of the Carolinas and Virginia. University of North Carolina Press, Chapel Hill, NC. 236 pp.), but is slightly larger than the total lengths of 134-167 mm for newborn garter snakes from Newport News, Virginia, given by Wood and Wilkinson (1952. Va. Journ. Sci.

3(3):202-205). All of the young snakes were released shortly after being measured.

Robert A. S. Wright
Biological Research Consortium
5204 Riverside Drive
Richmond, VA 23225

Coluber constrictor constrictor (Northern Black Racer): Suffolk (formerly Nansemond County), The Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge, Lynn Ditch Road, 15 m S of intersection with Jericho Ditch. 8 June 1988. D. Schwab and R. M. Keel, Jr.--Two black racers were seen entwined and motionless, with a third of their bodies in the vegetation and the remainder on the road surface, and did not immediately respond to the presence of our vehicle. After one or two minutes the snakes separated and moved back into the vegetation. Neither was captured and their sexes are unknown, but it appeared that they were mating.

Don Schwab
Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries
P.O. Box 847
Suffolk VA 23434

Lampropeltis getulus niger (Black Kingsnake): Scott County, 3.3 m S of Mendota on Va. Rt. 615. 30 July 1988. R. L. Hoffman.--An adult specimen (about three feet long) was found DOR on Rt. 615 in a deep steep-sided ravine forested with second growth mixed hardwoods. This locality is the easternmost known in Virginia for this subspecies, and is less than a half-mile west of the Washington County line (and only about six miles west of Bristol). The Black Kingsnake has been reported from Rye Cove in western Scott County (Croy, S. 1984. Field notes: *Lampropeltis getulus niger*. Catesbeiana 4(1):12), so the present record is negligible in terms of linear range extension (about 20 miles eastward) but is significant in establishing the species on the east side of Clinch Mountain and in raising the expectation that it may be found well into the central parts of Washington County. Despite having been killed on the previous day, apparently, and run over repeatedly, the specimen could be salvaged as a skin with head and tail attached and has been deposited in the Mitchell-Pague study collection at the University of Richmond.

Richard L. Hoffman
Radford University
Radford, VA 24142

Chelydra serpentina serpentina (Common Snapping Turtle): Suffolk (formerly Nansemond County), The Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge, Lynn Ditch Road, 1 km S of intersection with Jericho Ditch Road. 8 June 1988. D. Schwab and R. M. Keel, Jr.--Two turtles of about equal size were observed for four or five minutes biting and clawing each other in Lynn Ditch. Wounds were noted on the nose of one animal and on the neck of the other. Several times during the observation period the turtles faced each other, circled, and tried to bite the other's head or neck, and each attempted to mount the other on different occasions. Whether this observation was of two males in combat or heterosexual courting is unknown as the specimens were not captured for sexing. At no time was copulation seen. However, copulation by two specimens was seen by D. Schwab and M. Canada in Lynn Ditch, 250 m S of Badger Ditch Road, on 30 March 1977, as recorded in the following [edited] field notes by Schwab: "Time of observation was about 1600 hrs--a pair was seen copulating on surface in center of the ditch--Mike Canada and I watched for about 15 minutes during which time they broke and reunited three times--1st observed in a plastron to plastron position with one biting the neck of the other--2nd position (and 3rd) was a carapace to plastron--the whole procedure is very brutal with both animals showing signs of exhaustion and multiple scratches and bites on head and neck--both were about 30 cm long--their loud breathing was easy to hear when either/both of their heads were above the surface--loud noises from jaws and claws were very evident--female (?) seemed to want to escape--however was chased and caught after each attempt."

Don Schwab
P.O. Box 847
Suffolk, VA 23434

Field Notes

COMMUNAL NESTING OF TWO SPECIES OF *EUMECES*

by

David A. Young
1832 McDowell Rd.
Norfolk, VA 23518

While conducting a survey of the amphibians and reptiles of Prince William Forest Park (Prince William Co., Virginia) on 5 July 1988, the collectors of our group uncovered an uncommon communal nest of two species of *Eumeces*. J. C. Mitchell overturned a log adjacent to a trail in an ecotonal woods along the South Branch of Quantico Creek. Under the log was a female *Eumeces laticeps* and a female *E. fasciatus*, both guarding a mixed cluster of eggs. The eggs were easily sorted by size as the *E. laticeps* eggs were larger.

The rotting log was approximately 0.3 m x 2 m. The eggs were under the log and within a mixture of sand and rotten wood. The excavation was 10 cm diameter with some of the eggs 2.5 cm within the substrate. There were 12 eggs of *E. laticeps* and 13 eggs of *E. fasciatus*.

The location of *Eumeces* nests is common in the summer and I have occasionally found as many as three clutches adjacent or mixed and with attending females. This is the first time two species were found together.

Other members of the field party were: C. A. Pague, J. C. Mitchell, G. R. Zug, P. Zug, K. Adler, I. Darevsky, and N. Ananjeva. I am grateful to Prince William Forest Park for allowing this survey which is supported by a contract to C. A. Pague from the Virginia Natural Heritage Program.

Russian Herpetologists Visit Virginia

On 5 July 1988 three members of the VHS hosted a field trip for two leading Russian herpetologists who were in the United States on a three-week visit. Their primary goal was to attend the national herpetology meetings in Ann Arbor, Michigan, but they were also able to visit several colleagues in the east. Dr. Ilya S. Darevsky and Dr. Nataliya B. Ananjeva (of the U.S.S.R. Academy of Sciences, Leningrad) were guests of Dr. Kraig Adler (Cornell University), Dr. George R. Zug (Smithsonian Institution), and Pat Zug in Washington during 4-6 July. Joseph C. Mitchell, Christopher A. Pague, and David A. Young led the field trip in Prince William Forest Park, Prince William County. We had been conducting an inventory of the herpetofauna of this federal park for the Natural Heritage Program and were familiar with potential collecting sites. The party from Washington arrived about 1030 hr and spent about three hours in the field. Although the weather was hot and dry, success was better than expected.

The following species were caught: *Acris crepitans* (northern cricket frog), *Rana palustris* (pickerel frog), *Rana clamitans* (green frog), *Eumeces fasciatus* (eastern five-lined skink), *Eumeces laticeps* (broadhead skink), *Sceloporus undulatus* (fence lizard), *Carphophis amoenus* (worm snake), *Diadophis punctatus* (northern ringneck snake), *Elaphe obsoleta* (black rat snake), and *Agkistrodon contortrix* (northern copperhead). Dr. Darevsky was clearly interested in snakes, as he pounced on each of the specimens of the species encountered. He took great pride in pinning and holding his first copperhead. Dr. Ananjeva was more interested in lizards and was quick to catch skinks brooding eggs and a fence lizard on a cedar tree. All of the Americans were quite pleased with the success enjoyed by our Russian friends. Several of the species caught that day were the first vouchers collected for the park.

Despite the short trip, we all remarked how much fun we had had and how nice it was for the Russians to have this experience in the field. We learned later from Adler and Zug that Dr. Darevsky and Dr. Ananjeva said the field trip was one of the highlights of their American visit.

Joseph C. Mitchell
Department of Biology
University of Richmond
Richmond, VA 23173

Catesbeiana 8(2):35, 1988

VIRGINIA HERPETOLOGICAL SOCIETY
1988 DIRECTORY OF MEMBERS

MARY L ANDERSON
1016 GROVE LN
ROANOKE VA 24012

SAMUEL A ARNY
7608 HAMLET ST
N SPRINGFIELD VA 22151

JOHN B BAZUIN JR
7495 LITTLE RIVER TPK #201
ANNANDALE VA 22003

SCOTT BELL
5402 HELM CT
FAIRFAX VA 22032

JAMES OWEN BREEN
1612 AUTUMNWOOD DR
RESTON VA 22094

DALE L BRITTLE
BOX 681
BOWLING GREEN VA 22427

DONALD R BROTHERS
HC 33 BOX 1176
BOISE ID 83706

CLYDE R BROWN
BOX 154
FIELDALE VA 24089

KURT A BUHLMANN
35-F SALEM ALLEY
WEST MILFORD NJ 07480

COURTNEY RHODES CARTER
1907 DUNDEE LN
MARTINSVILLE VA 24112

JOSEPH M CHOROMANSKI
VA INST/MARINE SCI
GLOUCESTER POINT VA 23062

MIKE J CLIFFORD
P.O. BOX 81
NOTTOWAY VA 23955

JOSEPH T COLLINS
MUS OF NAT HIST
UNIV OF KANSAS
LAWRENCE KA 66045

*ROGER CONANT
6900 LAS ANIMAS NE
ALBUQUERQUE NM 87110

COSTELLO M CRAIG
RT 5 BOX 355
BEDFORD VA 24523

JERRY CRAIG
35 TIMBERLINE DR
BLUE RIDGE VA 24064

F MELTON CREERY
5701 CHAMBERLAYNE RD
RICHMOND VA 23227

LAURA CREWS
RT 1 BOX 411
HAYES VA 23072

ROGER H deRAGEOT
511 BOISSEVAIN AVE
NORFOLK VA 23507

BRIAN LEE DREWRY
124 WILLIAMS RD
MADISON HEIGHTS VA 24572

WILLIAM H DUNSON
DEPT OF BIOL PENN STATE UNIV
208 MUELLER BLDG
UNIVERSITY PARK PA 16802

RALPH P ECKERLIN
NAT SCI DIV NO VA COMM COLL
8333 LITTLE RIVER TPK
ANNANDALE VA 23003

DOUGLAS W EGGLESTON
RT 2 BOX 79-A
BROOKNEAL VA 24528

JENNY L ELWOOD
827 STATION AVE
MT EPHRAIM NJ 08059

BARRY ENSLEY
125 KITTY CIR
GRAFTON VA 23692

ROBERT P FAIRCHILD
P.O. BOX 47121
WASHINGTON DC 20050-7121

McCRAIG FIELDS
P.O. BOX 1413
OXFORD NC 27565

WILLIAM C FOSTER
3911 VICTORIA LN
MIDLOTHIAN VA 23113

JAMES A FOWLER
CRANBROOK INST OF SCI
500 LONE PINE RD BOX 801
BLOOMFIELD HILLS MI 48013

ROBERT GLASGOW
108 FLINT AVE
HARRISONBURG VA 22801

EUGENE V GOURLEY
DEPT OF BIOL
RADFORD UNIV
RADFORD VA 24142

CHARLES C GREEN
1803 ELMSMERE AVE
RICHMOND VA 23227

ROBERT LEE GUILLAUDEU MD FACP
6712 DEAN DR
MCLEAN VA 22101

REID N HARRIS
DEPT OF ZOOL
DUKE UNIV
DURHAM NC 27706

WILL HENDERSON
11430 JEFFERSON AVE
APT #110
NEWPORT NEWS VA 23601

RICHARD L HOFFMAN
DEPT OF BIOL
RADFORD UNIV
RADFORD VA 24142

BOB/PATTY/KELLY/BRYAN HOGAN
BRITISH WOODS
RT 11 BOX 203
ROANOKE VA 24019

CHARLES S HOOPER III
P.O. BOX 523
CREWE VA 23930

PAT IRELAND
885 MOUNTAIN VIEW DR
CHRISTIANSBURG VA 24073

PETER J JACOBSON
DEPT OF BIOL
VA TECH
BLACKSBURG VA 24061

JEFF KING
10033 CLEARFIELD AVE
VIENNA VA 22180

LEARNING RESOURCES CTR
LORD FAIRFAX COMM COLL
P.O. BOX 47
MIDDLETOWN VA 22645

RICHARD/JANET/STACEY LINGER
RT 1 BOX 272-A
GLOUCESTER VA 23061

KENNETH T MARKLEY
P.O. BOX 222
BREAKS VA 24607

W H (MARTY) MARTIN III
RT 3 BOX 804
HARPERS FERRY WV 25425

DONALD A MERKLE
DEPT OF NAT SCI
LONGWOOD COLL
FARMVILLE VA 23901

GEORGE MERRIKEN
342 NANSEMOND ST SE
LEESBURG VA 22075

WENDY H MITCHELL
9404 DERBYSHIRE RD
RICHMOND VA 23229

CHARLES NEAL
DEPT OF BIOL
RADFORD UNIV
RADFORD VA 24142

MITCHELL D NORMAN
500 HINTON AVE
CHESAPEAKE VA 23323

JAMES A ORGAN
734 RUTLAND AVE
TEANECK NJ 07666

THOMAS M PADGETT
P.O. BOX 6643
CHESAPEAKE VA 23323

ANNA E PLATZ
513 GARDINER RD
RICHMOND VA 23229

LIBRARY SERIALS UNIT
RADFORD UNIV
RADFORD VA 24142

JOHN J RYAN
60 AVOCADO ST
OTTAWA ONTARIO
K1V 9C6 CANADA

MICHAEL T/FRANCES K MENGAK
BOX 2692
FERRUM COLL
FERRUM VA 24088

JACKIE R MERKT
480 WINDEMERE RD
NEWPORT NEWS VA 23602

JOSEPH C MITCHELL
DEPT OF BIOL
UNIV OF RICHMOND
RICHMOND VA 23173

JAMES J MURRAY
DEPT OF BIOL
UNIV OF VIRGINIA
CHARLOTTESVILLE VA 22901

NEAL S NELSON DVM
MARGIT NELSON MD
8102 ASHTON BIRCH DR
SPRINGFIELD VA 22152

DOUGLAS W OGLE
RT 2 BOX 243
MEADOWVIEW VA 24361

CHARLES H OWENS
VA HIGHLANDS COMM COLL
BOX 828
ABINGDON VA 24210

CHRISTOPHER A PAGUE
DEPT OF BIOL SCI
OLD DOMINION UNIV
NORFOLK VA 23508

CHRIS PRITCHETT
201 INRONWOOD LN
FREDERICKSBURG VA 22401

LYNDA RICHARDSON
P.O. BOX 8296
RICHMOND VA 23226

EUGENE/CAROLYN SABOL
UTOPIA FARM
P.O. BOX 1195
LEESBURG VA 22075

NORMAN P ST MARTIN II
5244 NORTH LAKE RD
VIRGINIA BEACH VA 23455

PAUL SATTLER
DEPT OF BIOL LIBERTY UNIV
P.O. BOX 20,000
LYNCHBURG VA 24506

NANCY SAUNDERS
1B WALLS BRANCH RD
BLACKSBURG VA 24060

ALAN H SAVITZKY
DEPT OF BIOL SCI
OLD DOMINION UNIV
NORFOLK VA 23508

DON SCHWAB
VA COMM OF GAME/INL FISHERIES
P.O. BOX 847
SUFFOLK VA 23234

PHILLIP C SHELTON
CLINCH VALLEY COLL OF UVA
COLLEGE AVE
WISE VA 24293

HOWARD V SHERMAN
2106 CARNABY DR
VA BEACH VA 23454

RONALD SOUTHWICK
5608 PARKLAND CT
VA BEACH VA 23464

FRED S STUMP
P.O. BOX 216
BOONES MILL VA 24065-0216

*FRANKLIN J TOBEY
RT 1 BOX 381
PURCELLVILLE VA 22132

RICHARD L TOWNSEND
1508 OAKCREST DR
ALEXANDRIA VA 22302

BUDDY TRIMYER
1053 N GEORGE WASHINGTON HWY
CHESAPEAKE VA 23323

ROBERT T TURNER
4911 NEWPORT AVE APT #7
NORFOLK VA 23508

ALEXANDER VARKEY
DIV NAT SCI/MATH LIBERTY UNIV
P.O. BOX 20,000
LYNCHBURG VA 24506

JEREL (JERE) J VAUGHAN
12131 BRANTLEIGH PL
FAIRFAX STATION VA 22039

JAMES L WARNER
7 GAYLORD DR
WILTON CT 06897

PIERRE R WARNY
34 BRIDLE PATH
PORT WASHINGTON NY 11050

ROBERT J WATSON
2636 MARCEY RD N
ARLINGTON VA 22207

DON WEST
2042 DEAUVILLE RD
RICHMOND VA 23235

WERNER WIELAND
DEPT OF BIOL SCI
MARY WASHINGTON COLL
FREDERICKSBURG VA 22402-5358

THOMAS M WILKINSON
7020 WESTBURY RD
MCLEAN VA 22101

GARY WILLIAMSON
2921 MEADOW FOREST RD
CHESAPEAKE VA 23321

DAVID A YOUNG
1832 MCDOWELL RD
NORFOLK VA 23518

RICHARD (RICH) ZUCHOWSKI
3680 DOUBLE ROCK LN
BALTIMORE MD 21234

GEORGE R ZUG
644 N HARRISON ST
ARLINGTON VA 22205

FALL 1988 VaHS SOCIETY MEETING INFORMATION

The fall VaHS meeting will be held on Saturday, October 8, 1988, at Radford University in Radford, Virginia.

MEETING PLACE: Curie Hall, Room 33

SCHEDULE:

9:00-10:00	Coffee and donuts
10:00-11:30	Business meeting
11:30-1:00	Lunch at local restaurants
1:00-5:00	Papers

Weather and time permitting a field trip may be scheduled late afternoon or early evening.

DIRECTIONS: From I-81 take Radford Exit 35, follow sign to Radford, turn right at first stoplight from Tyler Avenue onto Norwood Street. Curie Hall is the third large building on right and is located to the left of the brick-walled Alumni Garden. Parking is available in front of Curie Hall.

INFORMATION: Charles Neal, Department of Biology, Radford University, Radford, Virginia 24142 (703) 831-5129

---

*HONORARY LIFE MEMBER

Membership Application

I wish to ☐ initiate ☐ renew membership in the Virginia Herpetological Society for the year 19_____ .

☐ I wish only to receive a membership list. Enclosed is $1.00 to cover cost.

Name _____

Address _____

_____ Phone _____

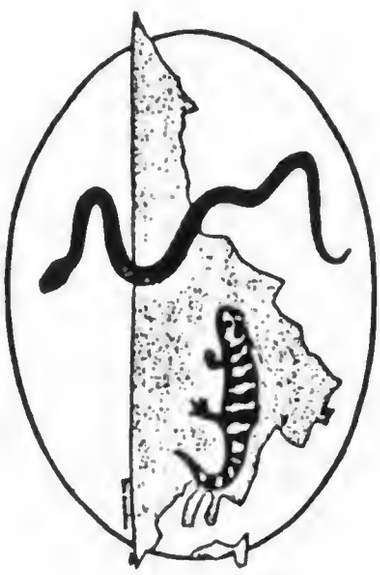
Dues category: ☐ Regular (5.00) ☐ Family (7.50) ☐ Under 18 (3.00)

Interests: ☐ Reptiles ☐ Amphibians ☐ Captive husbandry
☐ Distribution ☐ Research ☐ Specifically: _____

Make checks payable to the Virginia Herpetological Society and send to the treasurer.

Virginia Herpetological Society

Help make Herpetology come alive in Virginia...



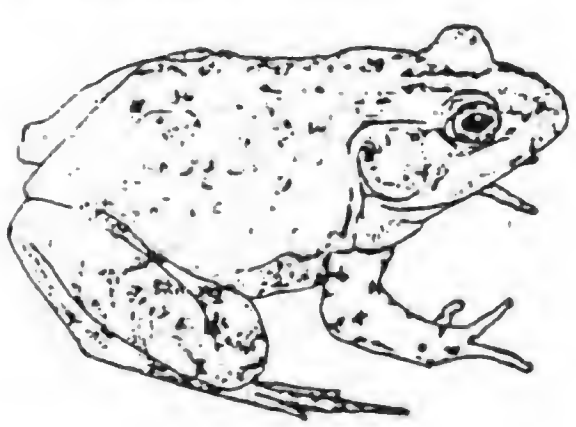
with the Virginia Herpetological Society

The Virginia Herpetological Society

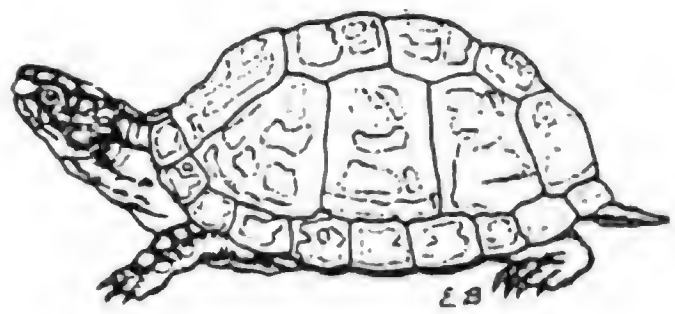
A society open to everyone with an interest in the conservation, study and care of reptiles and amphibians

The Virginia Herpetological Society was organized in 1958 to bring together people interested in advancing the knowledge of Virginia's reptiles and amphibians. The VaHS encourages the scientific study of Virginia's herpetofauna and its conservation. Educational activities continue to be important society functions.

Meetings are held twice each year, in Spring and Fall, at different locations throughout the state. The program is open to all members and includes a business meeting and a contributed papers session, during which members present information on their work with reptiles and amphibians, particularly in Virginia. An afternoon field trip usually follows.



The VaHS publishes a bulletin, CATESBEIANA, twice each year which contains articles, news and information on various aspects of Virginia herpetology. Members publish field notes and observations, distributional information and suggestions for improving husbandry techniques. Review articles appear occasionally. Material for inclusion should be sent to the CATESBEIANA editor.



Society dues are $5.00 per year ($3.00 for members under 18, and $7.50 for families).

Inquiries should be addressed to the secretary.

Membership can be initiated at meetings. Dues may be paid at that time.

President: Richard L. Hoffman, Dept. of Biology, Radford University, Radford, VA 24142

Vice President: Christopher A. Pague, Dept. of Biological Sciences, Old Dominion University, Norfolk, VA 23508

Secretary/Treasurer: Laura Crews, Route 1, Box 411, Hayes, VA 23072 (804) 642-4828

Coeditors: Eugene Gourley and Charles Neal, Radford University, Radford, VA 24142

Advantages of VaHS membership

- Spring meeting with talks, slides, and field trip
- Fall meeting with lectures, film or workshop
- Society bulletin published twice per year
- Extensive research material available
- Awareness of current herpetological events
- Opportunity to meet others who share your interest in herps
- Support of VaHS education and conservation goals

Major Papers

Manuscripts being submitted for publication should be typewritten (double-spaced) on good quality 8 1/2 by 11 inch paper, with adequate margins. Consult the style of articles in this issue for additional information. Articles will be refereed by at least one officer (past or present) of the VaHS in addition to the coeditors. All changes must be approved by the author before publication; therefore, manuscripts should be submitted well in advance of March or September.

Reprints of articles are not available to authors; however, authors may reprint articles themselves to meet professional needs.

Field Notes

This section provides a means of publishing natural history information on Virginia's amphibians and reptiles that does not lend itself to full-length articles. Observations on geographic distribution, ecology, reproduction, phenology, behavior and other areas are welcomed. Reports can be on a single species, groups of species or fauna from selected areas, such as a state park or county. The format of the reports is TITLE (species or area), COUNTY AND LOCATION, DATE OF OBSERVATION, OBSERVERS, DATA and OBSERVATIONS. Names and addresses of authors should appear one line below the report. Consult published notes or a coeditor if your information does not readily fit this format.

If the note contains information on geographic distribution, a voucher specimen or color slide should be sent for verification and deposited in a permanent museum or sent to the VaHS. Species identification for observational records should be verified by a second person.

The correct citation format: Croy, S. 1984. Field notes: ***Lampropeltis getulus niger***. *Catesbeiana* 4(1):12.

Herpetological Artwork

Herpetological artwork is welcomed. If the artwork has been published elsewhere, we will need to obtain copyright before we can use it in an issue. We need drawings and encourage members to send us anything appropriate, especially their own work.